

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 01382 051521Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 /092 W
-----027044 051525Z /53

O R 051435Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2668
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1382

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, FI
SUBJ: NAMIBIA NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 112312, (B) HELSINKI 1293.

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1. THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED THE NAMIBIA SITUATION WITH
THE DIRECTOR OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KLAUS TORNUDD, ON MAY 3. POLITICAL
COUNSELOR FOLLOWED UP WITH ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS
KORVENHEIMO ON MAY 5.

2. WE MADE THE POINTS OUTLINED IN REFTTEL A,

EMPHASIZING THE CRITICAL STAGE OF THE NAMIBIA NEGOTIATIONS AND THE NEED FOR SUPPORT FOR THE CONTACT GROUP'S EFFORTS. TORNUDD WAS, AS USUAL, NONCOMMITTAL, SAYING ONLY THAT OTHERS HAD MORE INFLUENCE THAN FINLAND. KORVENHEIMO SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONTACT BETWEEN FINNISH OFFICIALS AND SWAPO IN NEW YORK; HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED WHAT LINE THE FINNS WERE TAKING IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH SWAPO, KORVENHEIMO INDICATED HE HAS NOT YET BEEN INFORMED OF THE NATURE OF THE DISCUSSIONS.

3. IN OUR CONSULTATIONS AT THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY ON APRIL 26 (REFTEL B), AMBASSADOR LEONARD MADE MANY OF THE SAME POINTS CONCERNING NAMIBIA TO THE FINNISH PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONSULTATIONS, WHO WERE LED BY UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS KEIJO KORHONON. KORHONON SAID AT THAT TIME THAT FINLAND HAS A PREFERENCE FOR COMMUNICATING UNOFFICIALLY WITH SWAPO ON THESE MATTERS. EARLIER, IN AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION LAST MONTH IN RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS OF THE WESTERN GROUP OF FIVE HERE, THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATED THAT IT CONSIDERS THE REVISED WESTERN GROUP PROPOSALS A GOOD BASIS FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

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4. FINNLAND IS EXPECTING A SWAPO DELEGATION, LED BY VICE PRESIDENT MISHAKE MUJUNGO TO ARRIVE IN HELSINKI THE WEEK OF MAY 8. HOWEVER KORVENHEIMO EMPHASIZED THAT THE DELEGATION IS COMING TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND IS UNRELATED TO THE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING NAMIBIA.

5. COMMENT. THE CAUTION OF FINNISH OFFICIALS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NAMIBIA NEGOTIATIONS CLEARLY INDICATED THAT FINLAND INTENDS TO KEEP A VERY LOW PROFILE ON THIS ISSUE AND TO BE VERY INDIRECT IN EXPRESSING TO SWAPO ITS BASICALLY FAVORABLE EVALUATION OF THE WESTERN GROUP'S PROPOSALS. END COMMENT.
RIDGWAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HELSIN01382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780192-0546
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780590/aaaacymc.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 31d8cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 112312, 78 HELSINKI 1293
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2783551
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, FI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31d8cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014